

REMARKS

This Amendment, submitted in response to the Office Action dated July 15, 2004, is believed to be fully responsive to each point of rejection raised therein. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 7, and 8 are now all the claims pending in the present application.

I. Preliminary Matter

As a preliminary matter, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner approve the drawings filed August 5, 2003.

II. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 1 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Morita et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,349,016, hereinafter "Morita '016").

Claim 1 recites "wherein a sheet member for enhancing a coefficient of friction is **interposed** at least **between** said magnetic tape and said tape clamp portion."

The Examiner asserts that Morita '016 teaches the elements of claim 1. In particular, the Examiner references leader tape 148. It appears that the Examiner is citing leader tape 148 for teaching the sheet member of claim 1.

In Morita '016, a leader tape 148 is bonded to a magnetic tape 10 by using a splicing tape 149. See col. 11, lines 62-63 and Fig. 40. A pin body 114 is inserted into the loop of the leading tape 148 so that the shaft portion 115 is opposed to the leader tape 148. The magnetic tape 10 is

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8. (new): A magnetic tape cartridge according to claim 1, wherein a second sheet member is interposed between the magnetic tape and an inner periphery of the clamp member.

pulled leftward so that the leader tape 148 is brought into close contact with the shaft portion 115 and the clamp member 116 is press-fitted on the shaft portion 115 with the leader tape 148 intervening between the clamp member 116 and the shaft portion 115. See col. 11, lines 47-56. Therefore, only the leader tape 148 is disposed between the pin body 114 and the clamp portion 116; the magnetic tape 10 is not disposed so that the leader tape 148 is interposed between it and the tape shaft clamp portion 115.

However, in claim 1, a sheet member is interposed between a magnetic tape and a tape clamp portion. Since Morita '016 does not teach this aspect of claim 1, for at least this reason, claim 1 and its dependent claims should be deemed patentable.

III. New Claims

Applicant has added claims 7 and 8 to provide a more varied scope of protection. Claims 7 and 8 should be deemed patentable by virtue of their dependency to claim 1 for the reasons set for above.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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